

MODULAR KNEE JOINT PROSTHESIS

This application is a continuation of co-pending Application Serial No. 10/185,492, filed on June 28, 2002, the disclosure of which is hereby totally incorporated by reference in its entirety. *now abandoned,*

3/30/05

Background of the Invention

[001] The present invention relates to prosthetic joints, and particularly to a prosthesis for the knee joint.

[002] Implantable knee prostheses for diseased and/or damaged knees typically include three components, namely a femoral component, a tibial component and a meniscal component. The femoral component may also include a patellar element, or a separate patellar component may be provided. The prosthesis components are generally configured to restore or emulate as much of the natural motion of the knee joint as possible. The selection of the particular prosthesis components is usually dictated by the condition of the patient's knee. For instance, the condition of the distal end of the femur and proximal end of the tibia, as well as the patency of the surrounding ligaments and soft tissue can affect the form of the joint prosthesis.

[003] Generally, a total knee joint replacement includes a tibial component having a platform portion which replaces the entire superior surface of the tibial plateau and substitutes for the tibial condylar surfaces. The femoral component also includes laterally-spaced condylar portions joined by an inter-condylar bridge and a patellar surface.

[004] The tibial component typically includes a tibial tray and stem for surgical attachment to the proximal end of the tibia. The component also includes an intermediate articulating surface member that is connected to the tibial tray. The intermediate member defines a bearing surface for articulation of the femoral component thereon. The mating surfaces are smoothly curved in the anterior-posterior (AP) direction to generally match the lateral profile of the